

FAMILIES FOR ACTION

P. O. Box 8126
Birmingham, Alabama 35218

BULLETIN

Families For Action is an organization of parents, relatives, and loved ones of prisoners, and other concerned people whose goal is to change the inhumane conditions of the Alabama prisons and jails.

Families For Action members realize and understand that there is something fundamentally wrong with a judicial system that sends only Black and poor people to prison. (Between 70 and 80% of the prisoners in Alabama are Black and the others are poor.)

Families For Action members understand that crime is not defined by the act (what you do), but is defined by rich people and applied only to Black and poor people.

Families For Action members know that America is the land of the free, but only for those rich enough to buy freedom.

Families For Action members realize that the philosophy of prisons has been to control positive behavior and to mold negative personalities. Prisoners with strong leadership qualities are constantly in a state of uncertainty as to whether they will complete the day or week. They expect to be murdered any time!

For years, families in Alabama have stood by helplessly while their sons and daughters were marched off to prison for long terms, whether they were innocent or not. These same families have also seen their children return to society dehumanized and embittered by the inhumane and brutal conditions of prison life. Since the penal system provides neither education nor vocational training, but instead, functions only to destroy motivation and human dignity, released men and women have little opportunity to make it on the outside — the majority will return to prison.

All Black and poor people know someone in prison, even if none of their family members are in prison. It is time for Black and poor people to stop being ashamed of the fact that they have relatives & etc., in prison. It is time for Black and poor people to come together and make a sincere effort to change the inhumane conditions within Alabama's prisons and to do something about the conditions that caused them to be in prison in the first place. As Malcolm X once said,

"No man is born a criminal, the conditions of society makes him so, and to change the criminal you must first change the conditions which made him a criminal."

If you care for your relatives and loved ones in prison, and if you care that all human beings should be treated as human beings, then support our work.

You can come to our weekly meetings, attend our monthly events, and help in many other ways. For further information, call Mrs. Annie L. Norris at 322-8470 or Ms. Dawn Rene Moore at 780-4180 or write FFA, P. O. Box 8126, Birmingham, Alabama 35218.

"The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."